

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 01528 180911Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PER-01 CPR-01 /015 W
-----097105 180913Z /15/13
R 151440Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3244

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1528

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (FOR SUBJECT LINE)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, BU, APER (GARTOFF, RAYMOND L.)

SUBJECT: PRESENTATION OF LETTERS - AMBASSADOR GARTHOFF

REF: A) STATE 160644; B) SOFIA 1497

1. HAD OCCASION TO RAISE QUESTION IN REF A INFORMALLY WITH CHIEF OF GOVT PROTOCOL DR. BORIS DZHIBROV DURING HYDROFOIL RIDE ON DANUBE JULY 14. HE EMPHASIZED HE COULD GIVE ONLY HIS PERSONAL OPINION AS HE COULD NOT PREDICT WHAT RECOMMENDATION FOREIGN MINISTER MIGHT MAKE AND HOW ZHIVKOV WOULD ARRANGE HIS CALENDAR. HOWEVER HE DID NOT BELIEVE EARLY PRESENTATION OF LETTERS WOULD BE LIKELY IF AMBASSADOR GARTHOFF ARRIVES HERE SEPT 4, FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

2. ZHIVKOV, WHO OPENS PLOVDIV FAIR SEPT 4, WILL HAVE A STATE VISITOR IN SOFIA SEPT 5 AND 6. THE 7TH IS ZHIVKOV'S BIRTH-DAY, AND ALTHOUGH HE TAKES OFFICIAL ACTIONS ON THAT DAY THE PROGRAM IS USUALLY CIRCUMSCRIBED. ON THE 8TH, THE DAY BEFORE THE NATIONAL HOLIDAY, ZHIVKOV TRADITIONALLY OPENS VARIOUS NEW FACILITIES AROUND THE COUNTRY, WHICH PERMITS LEADERSHIP TO POINT WITH PRIDE IN SPEECHES TO THE NATION SEPT 9.

3. ON OTHER HAND, DZHIBROV SAID, IF AMB GARTHOFF WERE
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TO ARRIVE ON OR BEFORE SEPT 1, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE PRESENTATION OF LETTERS SEPT 2. THERE IS A VISITING PRIME MINISTER WHO WILL OCCUPY ZHIVKOV DURING PART OF SEPT 1, BUT HE WOULD PROBABLY BE FREE FOR PRESENTATION CEREMONY SEPT 2 (ALTHOUGH IN VIEW OF WHAT WAS REMARKED IN PARA 1 ABOVE, THERE IS NO CERTAINTY). SEPT 3 IS A SATURDAY AND IT IS NOT CUSTOMARY FOR THE CHIEF OF STATE

TO HAVE PRESENTATION CEREMONIES ON THAT DAY.

4. I MIGHT ADD A FEW PERSONAL COMMENTS: EXCEPT FOR THE TRADITIONAL CEREMONY IN FRONT OF DIMITROV'S TOMB, WHERE THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS IS STRICTLY SEGREGATED FROM THE BULGARIAN LEADERSHIP, THE HOLIDAY PERIOD SEPT 9 (WHICH, BEING A FRIDAY, IS FOLLOWED BY A LOST WEEKEND) IS GENERALLY A RATHER DEAD PERIOD HERE DEVOID OF OFFICIAL OR SOCIAL EVENTS (ALTHOUGH SOME GOVT OFFICES USUALLY OPEN SUNDAY AS PART OF "VOLUNTARY" MAKING UP OF TIME LOST DURING HOLIDAY). ACTIVITY SLACKENS ALREADY SEPT 8 AND IS NOT FULLY RESUMED UNTIL 12TH. THERE THUS SEEMS TO BE NO PARTICULAR ADVANTAGE IN TRYING TO GET IN JUST UNDER THE WIRE BEFORE THE NATIONAL HOLIDAY.

5. AS FOR ARRIVAL SEPT 1 (PARA 3), WHILE DZIH BROV WAS OBVIOUSLY TRYING TO BE CONSTRUCTIVE, I DOUBT THAT ARRIVAL THAT DATE WOULD MAKE PRESENTATION POSSIBLE ON SEPT 2. NORMAL CUSTOM IS FOR A CALL ON THE FOREIGN MINISTER TO PRECEDE BY A DAY OR TWO THE PRESENTATION OF LETTERS TO CHIEF OF STATE. THIS CAN BE COMPRESSED WHEN THERE IS NEED FOR IT, FOR INSTANCE WHEN AMBASSADOR'S ARRIVAL IS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY A MINISTERIAL VISIT, BUT DOUBTFUL SUCH COMPRESSION WOULD OCCUR IN NORMAL COURSE OF EVENTS. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, AMBASSADOR GARTHOFF MAY WISH TO CONSIDER ARRIVING HERE EITHER TOWARD THE END OF

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AUGUST OR AFTER SEPTEMBER 9.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION, POLICIES, AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE, AMBASSADORS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SOFIA01528
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: SOFIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770752/aaaabtbftel
Line Count: 96
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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TAGS: PDIP, APER, BU, US, (GARTOFF, RAYMOND L), (DZHIBROV, BORIS)
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